

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00026 132153Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 TRSE-00 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

FBIE-00 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /025 W
-----132200Z 034571 /66

R 122230Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE (CFT DIV)

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5409

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

CONFIDENTIAL BELIZE 0026

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIN, SNAR

SUBJECT: COUNTERFEIT U.S. CURRENCY

REF: A) 76 BELIZE 0982; B) FILE NO. 119-CO-5932-1; USSS

MSG DTG 040050Z JAN 77.

GUATEMALA FOR DEA

MEXICO CITY FOR LEGATT

1. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION (DPP), ISSA PEERA, CALLED AT CONGEN JANUARY 10 TO INQUIRE WHETHER USG COULD PROVIDE AN EXPERT WITNESS TO ENABLE PROSECUTION TO ESTABLISH IN TRIAL OF LUCIO HERIBERTO ALFANO PEREA (REF A) THAT BILLS IN QUESTION ARE COUNTERFEIT. WE TOLD PEERA AFFIDAVIT FROM SECRET SERVICE WAS ON THE WAY WHICH SHOULD ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE, BUT HE SAID BELIZEAN LAW WAS SUCH THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR EXPERT TO TESTIFY AT TRIAL.

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2. PEERA ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE USG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING HIM PLEA BARGAIN WITH PEREA WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING MORE ABOUT TRANSACTION, I.E., IDENTITY OF SOURCE OF COUNTERFEIT AND NATURE OF GOODS PEREA SOLD HIM. PEERA SAID POSSIBILITY THAT A NARCOTICS PURCHASE HAD TAKEN PLACE HAD OCCURRED TO HIM. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT PURSUE THIS APPROACH IF USG NOT INTERESTED OR IF WE WOULD PREFER NOT

TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT REDUCE CHARGES OR SENTENCE OF THE ACCUSED.

3. WE AGREED TO RELAY BOTH QUESTIONS TO APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND PEERA AGREED TO DELAY PROSECUTION UNTIL AFTER 24 JANUARY IN THE INTEREST OF HAVING A REPLY FROM USG PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) RE PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE, WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY AN APPROPRIATE USG EXPERT TO STRENGTHEN DPP'S CASE AGAINST PEREA BUT ARE NOT CONVINCED SUCH A VISIT IS VITAL TO HIS CASE. PEERA ADMITTED HE COULD GET LOCAL BANK OFFICIALS TO GIVE OPINIONS, WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD SUFFICE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF POOR QUALITY OF COUNTERFEIT BILLS. HENCE, WE NEITHER ENDORSE NOR OPPOSE PEERA'S REQUEST, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HIM AN ANSWER ASAP. ALSO, PLEASE SEND US A COPY OF U.S. SECRET SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 5932.

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(B) RE PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE, CONGEN SHARES PEERA'S SUSPICION THAT COUNTERFEIT BILLS MAY HAVE BEEN FOR NARCOTICS PURCHASE; HENCE IT SEEMS DESIRABLE TO US TO BE ABLE TO TELL PEERA THAT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION HE MIGHT OBTAIN IN REGARD TO SOURCE OF COUNTERFEIT AND NATURE OF GOODS SOLD, ESPECIALLY IF LATTER SEEMS RELATED TO ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC INTO U.S. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL BEFORE DOING SO.

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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